

REMARKS

The applicant has had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's Office Action of March 22, 2004 and believes this amendment is fully responsive to every point raised by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the application, as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1-12 remain in the application after this amendment is entered.

THE OFFICE ACTION:

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,384,822 to Brown et al. (Brown) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,549,918 to Probert, Jr. et al. (Probert, Jr.)

THE ART REJECTIONS:

Claims 1-14 Patentably Distinguish over Brown in View of Probert, Jr.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over the combination of Brown and Probert, Jr. Brown discloses a test facility that includes a local personal computer (PC) 20, digital telephones 24, analog telephones 26, and interface devices 28 for the analog telephones. The local PC 20 communicates with the digital telephones 24 and interface devices 28 via communication lines 22. The digital telephones 24 are connected to a first line unit 12 of a digital switch 10. The interface devices 28 are connected to a second line unit 14 of the digital switch 10. The local PC 20 can control the digital telephones 24 and interface devices 28 to generate calls and utilize features in accordance with a user definable program. The digital telephones 24 and interface devices 28 respond to status inquiry messages from the local PC 20 with reply messages that represent the status of telephone parameters. (see FIG. 1, col. 2, line 43 – col. 3, line 2) In support of the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner states that Brown discloses “receiving raw switch data output from a digital switch.” The applicant respectfully disagrees because the Brown test facility merely receives data from its own devices (i.e., digital telephones 24 and interface devices 28) which exercise the digital switch by

generating and receiving calls through the switch. While the Brown test facility can be used to test operation of the digital switch, it does not include "receiving raw switch data from the digital switch" as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, based on the forgoing reasons, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and claims dependent thereon (claims 2-6, 9, and 10) are currently in condition for allowance.

Moreover, new claim 13, also depending from claim 1, recites "wherein the raw switch data is stored by the digital switch in a switch database to keep track of switching activities associated with the digital switch." Brown does not disclose the use of a database in the digital switch as recited in claim 13. Thus, for these additional reasons, the applicant respectfully submits that new claim 13 is also currently in condition for allowance.

Similarly, amended claim 7 recites "a data receiver adapted to receive raw switch data from a digital switch." Thus, for the same reasons as stated above for amended claim 1, amended claim 7 is distinguished from Brown. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 7 and claims dependent thereon (claims 8, 11, and 12) are currently in condition for allowance.


Moreover, new claim 14, also depending from claim 7, recites "wherein the raw switch data is stored by the digital switch in a switch database to keep track of switching activities associated with the digital switch." Thus, for the same reasons as stated above for new claim 13, new claim 14 is distinguished from Brown. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that new claim 14 is also currently in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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